UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1999/249
8 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a statement issued on 6 March 1999 by the Office of the Government Spokesperson of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Duri MOHAMMED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-06333 (E) 080399

/...

Annex

Statement issued on 6 March 1999 by the Office of the Government Spokesperson of Ethiopia

Ethiopia endures 300 days of Eritrean occupation

Although the Ethiopian defence forces have pushed the Eritrean military out of Badme on the western front, Issaias Afewerki's troops still occupy additional Ethiopian territory. While Badme may be the symbol of Eritrean aggression, it is not the only Ethiopian territory which has been invaded. Eritrean troops continue to occupy territories in the Zalambessa-Aiga region, the Bada-Bure region and Egala region.

For nine months, Eritrean troops have remained in those Ethiopian territories and Ethiopian citizens living in those areas have had to endure 300 days of Eritrean occupation. The territories concerned have always been under Ethiopian administration, whether under Haile Selassie, the Italians or the Dergue. In the last few years, three elections have been held in those localities and MPs represent those areas in the Ethiopian Parliament. Nevertheless, the Eritrean Government has attempted to claim the areas for itself by ordering Ethiopians to declare themselves Eritrean citizens and issuing them Eritrean identity cards. Those not holding the ID cards are not allowed to farm.

Suffering under Eritrean occupation, many Ethiopian women and girls have been raped, while the young men who have not escaped have been captured and forced into the Eritrean army. Churches have been desecrated and are being used as warehouses to store Eritrean weapons, ammunition and other materials for the occupying troops. Some local priests have been forced to serve as storekeepers in their former churches, while others have been imprisoned. Eritrean soldiers have removed the wooden beams which formed the roofs of homes and have transported them away, where they will presumably by used for fuel or building materials in Eritrea.

Issaias' soldiers first invaded on 12 May 1998 when the Eritrean army, backed by tanks, moved into Badme town and its environs, overwhelmed the local police posts and the militia and occupied Ethiopian territory. The Eritrean aggression continued from 31 May to 6 June as Eritrean forces launched invasion attempts in the areas of Zalambessa, Alitena and Aiga in Eastern Tigrai. On 9 June, Ethiopian positions at Zalambessa were attacked and Eritrean troops occupied the territory. Two days later, Eritrea attacked Ethiopia on the Afar/Eritrea border in the vicinity of Bure.

Although the liberation of Badme was an important achievement, it must not be forgotten that thousands of Ethiopians continue to endure Eritrean occupation and that sovereign Ethiopian territory still remains in Eritrean hands.

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LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a statement issued on 5 March 1999 by the Office of the Government Spokesperson of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Duri MOHAMMED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-06339 (E) 080399

/...

Annex

Statement issued on 5 March 1999 by the Office of the Government Spokesperson of Ethiopia

A new twist in Eritrea's campaign of lies and prevarication

The Eritrean President, in a recent letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has stated that he accepts the Organization of African Unity (OAU) framework. That statement came as a surprise to many observers of the current conflict. People were surprised because, until the humiliating defeat of the Eritrean Army on the Badme front, the Eritrean President had vowed that he would not withdraw his forces from Badme, even if the sun ceased to rise. It is therefore very natural to ask why the sudden change of heart.

Many in the international community seem to have concluded that this sudden change came about as a result of the defeat of the Eritrean Army in Badme. It is suggested that the Eritrean President has recognized that he has lost the war and is seeking a means of cutting his losses by accepting the OAU proposals for a Framework Agreement. What this analysis suggests is that, for one reason or another, Eritrea is now ready to accept and implement the OAU package.

However, a careful reading of the statements from the Eritrean Government suggests otherwise. In an interview with German radio on 1 March 1999, Foreign Minister Wolde Tensae stated that the Eritrean Army had withdrawn from Badme as part of a new strategy whereby it would be in a "stronger protected position to launch a heavy attack" on Ethiopian forces. That same day, he told Channel Africa: "We have made some readjustments on our front line in order to inflict further losses and damage upon the attacking forces of Ethiopia."

Even more revealing of the Eritrean position is what the Government is not telling its own people. The Eritrean people have, as of today, not been told by their Government that it has accepted the OAU package. Those Eritreans who have access to the international media have obviously heard the news. But the Eritrean people as a whole have been kept in the dark on this vital issue of peace and war. Instead, the Eritrean people are being told day in and day out that their army has made a tactical withdrawal in order to regroup and launch a successful offensive. The Eritrean Government is thus telling all who care to listen that it is engaged in tactical manoeuvres in order to gain time to regroup and reorganize.

While Eritrean forces have been kicked out of Badme, they still occupy Ethiopian territory that they captured during their invasion of Ethiopia last year. They continue to occupy the Zalambessa-Aiga region, the Bada-Bure region and the Egala region. The Eritrean Government has shown no signs of withdrawing its army from those territories, as it is required to do by OAU. On the contrary, the Eritrean Army is making frantic efforts to further reinforce its trenches along these lines and mobilize additional troops to these areas.

The statements of Eritrean officials and the actions of the Eritrean Army on the ground thus prove that so far there has been no change of heart. The Eritrean Government is not trying to cut its losses after its humiliating defeat in Badme. It is simply trying to buy time to regroup and reorganize in order to retain the Ethiopian territories that it continues to occupy to this day and to regain Badme.

Just as Eritrea has been consistent in rejecting all peace proposals or trying to use them to buy time to bolster its warmaking capacity, Ethiopia has consistently pursued the peace option. When Eritrea invaded Ethiopia and occupied part of our territory, we sought the assistance of the international community to help us resolve the conflict peacefully. The international community, having established the fact that Ethiopia was forcefully occupied by Eritrea, failed to condemn the aggression. They did not call on Eritrea to withdraw from the occupied territory unconditionally. We endured foreign occupation and humiliation for nine months in the hope that the international community would convince Eritrea to accept a peaceful solution to the conflict. The international community failed to act vigorously in support of the peace package, leading to further provocation by Eritrea and the resumption of the conflict on 6 February 1999.

Ethiopia has never had and does not have any designs on the sovereignty of Eritrea. Ethiopia is simply exercising its right of self-defence. Ethiopia has never rejected peace. It was forced into war by Eritrean aggression and intransigence.

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9 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 9 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the eve of the twenty-first century, the United Nations is endeavouring to liquidate the crimes against humanity that have gone unpunished in the past. Taking note of these ongoing efforts, I would like to bring to the attention of the Security Council the use of biological and chemical weapons and large-scale massacres of innocent populations by the United States of America during the Korean war, abusing the name of the United Nations.

The United States, claiming to be the "defender of peace", has been denying the war crimes against humanity committed by its troops during the Korean war.

At the time of the Korean war, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and other international organizations dispatched an investigation team to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, confirmed the facts and made them public to the world.

Nevertheless, the inhuman atrocities committed by the United States troops during the Korean war remained unknown to the world because the United States militarily tightly controlled and managed the press.

Recently, certain academic circles in the United States have made efforts to crack the secrets of the crimes of United States troops, and history scientists Stephen Endicott and Edward Hagerman published a book entitled The United States and Biological Warfare: Secrets from the Early Cold War and Korea (Indiana University Press) on the basis of declassified documents.

The United States troops, far from defending peace in Korea, waged a war of human slaughter by mercilessly killing all the living things and destroying all the man-made objects on the surface of land. These are inhuman war crimes, which should certainly be disclosed to the world.

In this regard, I wish to point out with particular emphasis that all the unethical war crimes of the United States against the Korean people during the Korean war were committed in the name of the United Nations and that this

constitutes a direct challenge to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

I hold that the United Nations should make an issue of the use by the United States of biological and chemical weapons and the large-scale massacres and abuse of the United Nations name, in order to prevent their recurrence.

At present, too, the United States is attempting to isolate and stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, distorting the image of it by linking it to biological and chemical weapons, while driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to the extreme.

In my previous letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, I stated that the United States was trying to maintain the "United Nations Command" in south Korea for the purpose of using the name of the United Nations in military attacks against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in case of "emergency".

The Security Council should take measures to retrieve the United Nations flag and name from the United States troops in south Korea as early as possible to deter the United States from further abusing the United Nations name for its strategic purposes.

In this context, I enclose herewith an extract from the report of the Investigation Team of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers published on 31 March 1952 on the basis of confirmation of the crimes on the spot (see annex).

I would be grateful if you should have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LI Hyong Chol
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Extract from the report dated 31 March 1952 of the Investigation Team of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers on the crimes committed by the United States of America in Korea

The United States of America made an indiscriminate bombardment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in wanton violation of the norms of international law and humanitarian principles during the past Korean war.

The United States used germs and chemical weapons and committed genocide. Because of that, innocent inhabitants were mercilessly killed, and industrial facilities, schools, hospitals and other cultural establishments used for peaceful purposes were destroyed.

In order to investigate the genocide committed by the United States against the Korean people, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers formed a law expert investigation team from eight countries, including Austria, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands and France. This team visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from 3-19 March 1952 and made public the following result of its investigation.

1. Bacteriological warfare of the United States of America

When the team arrived in Korea, it was immediately faced with the unexpected task of looking into a very serious case concerning the application by United States army troops in Korea of bacteriological weapons against the Korean army and non-combatants.

The team members collected first-hand evidence in various locations in the country. In many cases, the team found a special variety of flies, fleas, spiders, beetles, bedbugs, crickets, mosquitos and other insects. Most of them were not seen in Korea.

Most of them were found in the snow and icy rivers or between grasses and stones, far away from inhabited areas. At that time, the temperature (1 degree centigrade in January and 5 degrees centigrade in February at the maximum) was extremely low, making it impossible for insects to survive. And different insects, including flies and spiders, were, on a frequent basis, found in the same place in a large or mixed group, where they normally didn't fly together. This gave rise to doubts about the appearance of those insects in such places.

The expert investigation proved that the insects were infected with a virus.

On 30 January 1952, flies, bedbugs and spiders were found alive in the snow and between stones in the eastern and southern areas of Ichon, Kangwon Province. The investigation by the experts determined that the flies were infected with cholera virus. The debris of a container was found 3 or 4 metres away from the

place where the insects were discovered, and the container was designed to open up immediately as it touched the ground.

On 18 February 1952, flies, spiders and ladybirds were found in Balnam-ri, Taeri sub-county, Anju county in South Pyongan Province. The insects all survived. At that time, such flies and spiders were never seen in the region. The temperature above the ground was 20 degrees below zero centigrade. The expert investigation concluded that the insects were infected with pest virus.

On 25 February 1952, flies and other insects were found five times in Kaechon county, South Pyongan Province. The insects discovered were the first ever to be found.

On 3 March 1952, a swarm of flies were found to have been bundled together in one square yard in Koum-ri, Jasan sub-county, Sunchon county in South Pyongan Province. The flies were found on the snow at 10 degrees centigrade, but they were still alive. It was abnormal to see flies outdoors at that time of the year.

On 5 March 1952, flies were found to have swarmed in small and large numbers on the road in Nammun-ri, Junggu, South Pyongan Province. The next day, cholera broke out.

These individual cases investigated by the inspection team represent only a small portion of the facts. That is because the inspection team could not visit every affected place.

It was proved that a large number of insects were infected by pest, cholera and other contagious diseases.

Containers were discovered near the places where the insects were found, and they were built to be used for carrying the insects in large numbers.

The containers were confirmed to have carried a plate written in English. There occurred an outbreak of pest and cholera immediately after the insects were found.

The investigation team could not but reach a conclusion that the United States planes dropped insects in Korea that were infected with contagious diseases.

2. Use of chemical weapons by the United States

United States planes used suffocative and other gas or chemical weapons from at least 6 May 1951.

On 6 May 1951, three B-29 bombers dropped bombs in Samhwa-ri, Hupo-ri, Chukdong-ri, Yongjong-ri and Yongsu-ri between 5.05 and 6.30 p.m., killing 1,379 people. Among them, 480 people died of suffocation and 647 people were poisoned by gas. The symptoms of the dead were as follows: breathing difficulty, hoarse voice, dizziness, coughing, tears, snivelling, pain and

emesis of blood. In the regions bombarded by gas bombs, grass changed its colour into yellow brown, things including copper alloy into blue green and silver rings into a dusty colour.

On 1 September 1951, two bombs were dropped in a village of Yonsong-ri and Wonchol-ri, Hwanhae Province. Contrary to the normal case, this bombing produced a fainter noise and exploded in space, producing a black smoke. This was followed by a yellowish green cloud spreading on the surface of the ground. As a result, 4 civilians were killed and another 40 people were poisoned. The symptoms and results were similar to the one found in the bombardment of Nampo on 6 May 1951.

At about 4 p.m., on 9 January 1952, two bombers dropped bombs on a village called Hakson-ri located in the north of Wonsan. Thirty-eight people were poisoned. Symptoms were similar to those found during the Nampo bombardment.

The above facts prove without a doubt that the United States troops in the Korean war possessed all kinds of chemical weapons and used them, on many occasions, in killing ordinary people, thereby producing many casualties.

3. Massacre by the United States in Sinchon

In Sinchon county, 35,383 inhabitants (19,149 men and 16,234 women) were murdered during the period of occupation by United States troops from 17 October to 7 December 1950.

The investigation thereon gave conclusive evidence of the following facts:

- The United States army troops committed a massive killing of about 900 men and women, including around 300 children, behind the building of the County People's Committee on 18 October 1950. Included among the female victims were also pregnant women.

- The United States troops confined 400 people underground and burnt them alive in the area of Pujong-ri on 18 October 1950. The burnt bodies remained underground until the area was liberated.

- The investigation team inspected the graves where the massacre of 20 October 1950 had been committed. Some were unearthed in the presence of the investigation team. The team also visited the air raid shelter and warehouse where the massive killing was committed. Burn marks were left on the walls of the sites.

- Another massacre was committed in mid-November 1950. Nearly 500 people were killed, including women and children.

- United States troops buried almost 400 people alive in Sangson-ri of Yongjin sub-county, Sinchon county.

- During their occupation, United States troops arrested 2,000 inhabitants and employed all methods in killing them in Solmae-ri of Rowol sub-county, Sinchon county.

- On 7 December 1950, when the United States troops had to beat a retreat in the Sinchon area, massive killings were committed against approximately 900 men and women at the two warehouses in the area of Wonam-ri, on the order of lieutenant Harrison, the then commander of the United States troops occupying that area. More than 200 children were also killed in one of the warehouses. The United States troops poured gasoline over the clothes of the people, set fire to them, and then threw hand-grenades inside the building through windows. A Korean woman locked in the building together with her two children barely succeeded in pulling the children outside the window. One child was shot to death and the other escaped the scene. But the mother was burnt to death.

Such crimes committed by the United States in Korea are not isolated incidents. They were planned and deliberate criminal acts which caused a detrimental effect to world peace.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

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9 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a record of the press conference held on 2 March 1999 by Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, in respect of the horrific acts of primitive savagery in which 12 people, including 8 tourists, were raped and butchered by the murderous gangsters that operate from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex). These cold-blooded murderers and their collaborators in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be pursued and denied a hiding place.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Prof. Semakula KIWANUKA
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Uganda
to the United Nations

99-06413 (E) 110399

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Annex

Statement made by the President of Uganda on 2 March 1999

Callous murder of tourists in Bwindi

1. The President expressed his profound sorrow and sadness at what happened in Bwindi on Monday, 1 March 1999. He extended his sincere condolences to the bereaved families and their loved ones on his own behalf and that of his Government. The President also extended the same condolences to the bereaved families of Ugandans who lost their lives during this episode, including the unfortunate officials of the park.

2. The President said the criminals were the Interahamwes, part of the same group that massacred over 1 million Rwandese 5 years ago in Rwanda. They are the ones who came and abducted tourists in Bwindi, people who were not armed, other than the park rangers. There was absolutely no reason to kill the tourists. Even to take them hostage is criminal. At best they could have asked for ransom.

3. Their action proves how we were right in taking firm action about going into Congo. These criminals are not any different from the Kony group. We have now given instructions to the army to pursue them wherever they are.

4. The President admitted that there was a lapse on the part of the Government. He said it was true that originally the national parks were not to be guarded by the army, but given the criminal minds of the gangs in the region, the authorities concerned should have taken precautionary measures and requested the army to guard the area. The President said that he had earlier, on his own intuition, decided to send an army detachment to guard Paraa in Murchison National Park because of the threat of the Kony group. He did this over the objections of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), which was against stationing elements of the army to guard tourist centres. Similarly and much earlier, he had given instructions that Mweya Lodge in Queen Elizabeth National Park be guarded until such time as there was complete stability in the whole region. In the case of Bwindi, this had not occurred to him, as he had not visited the area. Protection of Bwindi is now included, and national park authorities are being asked to indicate any other areas that should receive protection. It is not impossible to secure security for all such areas.

Questions to the President from the journalists, the majority of whom were foreign correspondents from the British Broadcasting Company, the Cable News Network and Reuters, among others

Question:
Why was the border not guarded despite the presence of Ugandan troops in the Congo?

Answer:
Ugandan troops are in the north-east Congo and not so much in the area where the attack took place. Now we have moved to the area and we shall stay there.

Question:
What is the account of what took place? Could we have some more details?

Answer:
The accounts we have received came mainly from the survivors. The eight tourists were killed in a very brutal way using machetes. Six of the survivors were released for unknown reasons. There is a version of the story that there was an exchange of fire between the rebels and the Ugandan People's Defense Forces (UPDF). There was no such thing. UPDF troops met the survivors coming down as UPDF forces were following the trails of the rebels and their abductees. We shall follow them in Congo and kill them.

Question:
How close is the rebel base in the Congo?

Answer:
The rebels have no permanent bases as such. They tend to move up and down the Masisi/Rutsushu areas.

Question:
Why is there so much interest in the killing of the foreigners when other killings of Africans elsewhere are going on unnoticed?

Answer:
I would not say the world is indifferent to African killings. The international community responded promptly to the 1994 massacres in Rwanda. Interest has to do with the flow of information. Where there is information, the international community will show interest.

Question:
Why is Uganda a target?

Answer:
The bandits committed this callous murder to draw international attention. These are people who make a lost of mistakes. They even killed Belgian peacekeepers in Rwanda who were trying to save the Rwandese Prime Minister, who was a lady. They will kill anybody. Time should not be wasted in analysing their motive. The point of fact is that these are criminals who will do anything, including murder.

Question:
What assurances can Uganda give that tourism will be safe again in the future?

Answer:
If the army is not specifically requested they cannot intervene. The army is busy in several areas. It is not an idle army sitting doing nothing in the barracks. The game warden who should have been held responsible for not

alerting or requesting protection is already dead. He was one of those brutally murdered.

Question:
What could have been the motive of the rebels?

Answer:
We still have terrorists who aim at soft targets such as tourists. Their grievance is power but they cannot own up to it and so, given their criminal mind, they aim at soft targets.

Question:
Is Uganda's involvement in the Congo a factor?

Answer:
Why don't they attack UPDF troops in the Congo, why attack the tourists from California, the women and children who have nothing to do with regional politics? This is what distinguishes a terrorist from a freedom fighter. These are terrorists.

Question:
Is it possible this could have been a different, perhaps new, type of rebel group?

Answer:
They told the people that they were Interahamwes. The survivors confirmed the same. No, it is not any other rebel group.

5. The President said that the Interahamwes needed to be pursued by the whole international community. They committed grave crimes in 1994 in Rwanda. Ever since they moved into Congo they have been committing atrocities in that country. Now they have committed premeditated murder without provocation and without any cause. The international community must now act against these murderers.

6. The President regretted again and again the brutal murder of the innocent tourists and the Ugandans who died. He said his Government would do everything possible to make sure this type of incident does not recur. If it had been brought to his attention, he could not have accepted the argument of not deploying the army because it would deter tourists.

7. In conclusion, the President reiterated his deep and sincere condolences to the bereaved families and to their loved ones. This, he said, should not recur.

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9 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith a statement issued by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on 5 March 1999 on the occasion of the removal from office of Nikola Poplasen, President of Republika Srpska, by Carlos Westendorp, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

I would be very grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

99-06449 (E) 090399

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Annex

Statement issued by the Federal Government of Yugoslavia on 5 March 1999 on the occasion of the removal from office of Nikola Poplasen, President of Republika Srpska

On the occasion of the announced decision today of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Carlos Westendorp, on removing from office the President of Republika Srpska, Nikola Poplasen, the Federal Government has issued the following statement:

The attempt on the part of Mr. Westendorp to remove from office Nikola Poplasen, the President of Republika Srpska, by decree, is an illegitimate and unprecedented arbitrary act and represents the most gross violation so far of the letter and spirit of the Dayton/Paris agreement, the Constitution of Republika Srpska and the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By this act, Mr. Westendorp demonstrated a lack of respect and disregard for the sovereign will of the citizens of Republika Srpska, who elected their President in free and fair elections. At the same time, this position of the High Representative has dealt a heavy blow to the efforts towards progress and stabilization of the very peace process to which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been making a great contribution ever since the beginning.

Not a single provision from the Dayton/Paris peace agreement or the provisions of the highest legal acts of Republika Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina gives Mr. Westendorp the right to undertake anything in disregard of constitutional organs and institutions or to wilfully remove from office the highest office holders.

Although this is not the first unconstitutional act and violation of the Dayton/Paris agreement by Mr. Westendorp, according to its gravity and implications this act surely represents the most gross violation so far of the mandate of the High Representative, absolutely disqualifying Mr. Westendorp from carrying out this responsible duty in the future.

In view of that, the Federal Government considers that such an illegal decision by Mr. Westendorp cannot have any constitutional or legal effect and has to be considered null and void.

The legally elected President of Republika Srpska can be removed from office only by its citizens, who elected him in the first place, on the basis of the procedure envisaged by the law - not by international officers who take it upon themselves to be above the highest legal institutions and citizens of Republika Srpska.

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9 March 1999

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LETTER DATED 5 MARCH 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT).

Brigadier-General Tengku Ariffin Bin Tengku Mohammed (Malaysia), who has been Chief Military Observer since 4 April 1998, will relinquish his post on 4 April 1999. Following consultations with the parties concerned, it is my intention to appoint Brigadier-General John Hvidegaard (Denmark) as the next Chief Military Observer of UNMOT.

I should be grateful if you would convey this information to the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

99-06469 (E) 090399

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NATIONS

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9 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 9 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 5 March 1999 (S/1999/254) concerning your intention to appoint Brigadier-General John Hvidegaard of Denmark as the Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention contained in your letter.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
President of the Security Council

99-06475 (E) 090399

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General Assembly
Security Council

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9 March 1999

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 8 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 8 March 1999, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 8 March 1999 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 9, 16, 24 February and 1 March 1999 (A/53/824-S/1999/137, A/53/832-S/1999/164, A/53/842-S/1999/206 and A/53/848-S/1999/218, respectively), addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic".

I would like to recall that similar charges on so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 26 January 1999 (A/53/808-S/1999/80). Suffice it to say that flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State over which the usurper regime in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

The repeated allegations made by the Greek Cypriot administration demonstrate that it is not prepared to acknowledge the present reality of the existence of two sovereign States which will constitute the framework of a new partnership settlement in Cyprus. Instead, the Greek Cypriot administration has opted for a reckless policy of escalation and tension on the island through an unprecedented build-up of arms and armed forces within the context of the "joint military doctrine" with Greece. It is noteworthy in this context that, according to the Strategic Studies Center in South Cyprus, in 1998 the Greek Cypriot administration spent 5.5 per cent of GDP on armaments, putting its military expenditure as a percentage of GDP above that of NATO and European Union countries. On a per capita basis, the Greek Cypriot administration ranks among the highest in the world, with each Greek Cypriot "laying out $756 a year on defence, compared to $553 for the Middle East, $526 for Greece and a mere $131 for Turkey" (Greek Cypriot daily The Cyprus Mail of 24 February 1999).

Moreover, the latest developments pertaining to the capture in Nairobi of terrorist leader Abdullah Ocalan by Turkish security personnel and his current interrogation in Turkey demonstrates who is in collaboration with the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) terrorist organization and from where it receives support. The fact that Ocalan spent the last several days of his flight from justice at the residence of the Greek Ambassador in Nairobi and that a Greek Cypriot passport was found in his possession at the time of his capture is evidence that the Greek-Cypriot front supports terrorism directed at the Turkish nation. The flurry of statements made by Greek Cypriot political leaders and the disgraceful resolution adopted by the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives on 18 February 1999 in support of the chief terrorist are further concrete proof of the close alliance between PKK and the Greek Cypriot side.

The above-mentioned developments have further deepened the current crisis of confidence between the two sides in Cyprus and, as such, have complicated the

efforts towards finding a settlement. As long as the hostile attitude of the Greek Cypriot side continues, all efforts to achieve progress towards reconciliation between the two States will be in vain.

In view of the foregoing, all parties interested in peace and stability in Cyprus and the region should urge the Greek Cypriot side to desist from the policy of hostility it is pursuing, in collusion with Greece, against guarantor power Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus